

A Letter to a Young Soldier

I was lying on the beach last Sunday, an unseasonably hot day, and a plane flew over low, dropping leaflets. The children ran for them as they fluttered down, shouting and laughing as they stretched to grab them. In black letters, the leaflets said:

"BACK YOUR GIs IN VIET NAM

"The recent demonstrations attacking our presence in Viet Nam are having a serious effect on the morale of the servicemen stationed there.

"We are convinced that the vast majority appreciate the sacrifices those GIs are making for us. That feeling must be heard.

"We ask you and your friends to take a few minutes to write a personal letter to a serviceman in Viet Nam.

"THE GI IN VIET NAM DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT . . . HE'S THERE FOR YOU."

The flurry over the leaflets subsided quickly. On the crowded beach, people read them, put them aside and went back to sunbathing, playing football or splashing in the cold water. A transistor radio nearby uninterruptedly blared forth its rock and roll music.

I lay there in the warm sand and thought that here was a worthy cause. The GI out there deserves at least a letter from me. And yet what would I say?

I tried to think of the unknown GI I would write to. I don't know why, but I pictured him as young and blond and crew-cut, maybe from Iowa or some place like that. I supposed he'd been drafted. And then he'd heard that his outfit was being sent to Viet Nam and . . . Thank God, I'm too old to be out in Viet Nam. But I couldn't say that.

I thought of how really lousy war is. The misery, the incredible boredom, punctuated by those moments of fear. How awful it is to be scared — scared way down deep. How sorry I felt for that young GI out in Viet Nam. But I couldn't say that.

I could, I supposed, join with the militants and tell this GI that I knew he was fighting out there for freedom and democracy. But I'm really not at all sure that's true. I think he's fighting a war we wished we'd never gotten into and can't find any practical way to get out of. But I couldn't say that.

Besides, if I encouraged him even in a small way to fight harder and if, in so doing, he were killed . . . No, I couldn't say that.

Or I could, I supposed, join with the pacifists and tell him to lay down his gun. But would I have the moral courage to take such a step? No, I couldn't say that.

I could tell him, as the leaflet suggested, that we civilians support him all the way. I looked around the beach, crowded with happy, prosperous people. I thought of how no one ever really talks to each other these days about Viet Nam. I thought of how every young man I know is doing his best to beat the draft. No, I couldn't say that.

And then I decided not to write at all. For all I could honestly say was that I wished this unknown GI well. I hope like hell he isn't killed. I hope he comes home soon. But above all, with that tremendous guilt we civilians often feel, I thank God it's he over there and not I.

And you can't say that.

Contract Awarded for New Street Work in Carson Area

Award of a contract for the improvement of 223rd Street into a major east-west highway has been approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

The \$355,472 contract involves work between Main Street and Avalon Boulevard and is the first step in a program to transform the predominantly two-lane road into a major highway to serve the new Watson Industrial Center.

Tied to the road program, supervisors also authorized the county Road Department to advertise for bids to

223rd Street between Avalon Boulevard and Wilmington Avenue, immediately adjacent to the center.

The new artery will serve the Carson-Dominguez area, site of the 75-acre, \$175 million Watson Industrial Center.

Strecker Construction Co. of Long Beach received the contract for the initial phase of the improvement. Completion is expected in April, 1966.

Improvement of the mile-long Avalon-to-Wilmington link is expected to be completed in February, 1966.

COUNT MARCO

He Rises to Defend 'Grannies'

Rarely have I anything to say against the edicts that officials set forth for the department of girl students. I leave all such noisy interference to that unnecessary group of professional meddlers, the PTA.

Today, however, I do take exception. I have a difference of opinion in attitudes concerning the wearing of the "granny dress," a very close sister of the Hawaiian muu muu.

When principals send home students wearing shorts, overloaded slacks, hair rollers, or other destroyers of femininity, they have my wholehearted support. But I disagree that long dresses are an unstable influence in matters of school deportment, providing they are kept within the realm of good taste.

I have in the past written that the Hawaiian fashion of long dresses is a beautiful, totally feminine look.

The wearer walks more elegantly, sits more gracefully and on the whole acts more sedately, because long dresses have always inspired a standard of regality.

Today's teen girls have become so addicted to those other revoltingly hideous fads that they have ceased to know the feeling of being a girl, except perhaps on a prom night.

Besides, then the most negative opposition to this fashion must admit that it is much more dramatic and pleasing to the eye to see girls in flowing ankle-length dresses than those sausage casings of too-tight skirts rid-

ing disastrously and crudely above the knee.

As with any recommendation for school dress, there must be a specific uniformity of regulations. The dresses should not be slit up to the thigh nor should they be so long as to drag trains behind them.

Neither must they be so tight and form-fitting as to resemble an hourglass blown into shape by a glass blower with one too many under his belt.

The neckline is to be simple, with no plunge, and the colors of the dresses are to be muted or in pastels. The idea is to create a feeling of sweet, teen-age simplicity rather than a savage preparing for a sacrificial rite.



AT DEDICATION . . . Daniel, David, and DeWayne Watson of Torrance join Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and Mrs. Elizabeth Stevenson Ives of Bloomington, Ill., at dedication ceremonies marking the birthplace of the late Adlai E. Stevenson as a historical monument. The home is located at 2639 Monmouth Ave., near the University of Southern California campus. The Watson triplets are sons of Mr. and Mrs. John Watson of 3126 W. 187th St.

Ann Landers Says

Colliding Genes Hold Beauty Key



Dear Ann Landers: Your advice is usually excellent, but I think you could have done much better with your answer to the 16-year-old girl whose father said, "If you marry Clark you'll regret it because your children will be ugly and it's not fair to give kids a handicap like that."

Have you noticed that some of the most beautiful people have ugly parents and some of the most gorgeous couples produce physically unattractive children.

What a child is going to look like is the biggest gamble known to mankind. It all depends on how the chromosomes and genes combine. If the little rascals that carry the worst features of both parents get together, you'll have a real loser. On the other hand, if the best features of two average looking people collide you may get a raving beauty or a screamingly handsome boy.

So, why didn't you tell the girl to give her Dad THAT word, Ann? — GOT THE BEST FROM BOTH

Dear Got: Why? Because I didn't think of it. But YOU did and I thank you for providing my readers with a heck of a lot better answer than I gave them.

Dear Ann Landers: I am a

middle-aged woman who was recently widowed. Several of my friends have been very generous about having me out to dinner and to their homes for cocktail parties.

My husband was never much of a drinker and neither am I. Now I find myself embarrassed when I am out for an evening and my friends order martinis, Manhattans, whiskey sours, and Bloody Marys because I don't know one drink from another. I usually order what the person next to me has.

I hate to admit it, Ann, but I am a poor drinker and two drinks make me feel dizzy and I get rather foolish. Will you please give me the names of some mild drinks I can order with safety? Thank you—SOCIAL DRINKER.

Dear Social: Soda pop, fruit punch, orangeade, iced tea, ginger ale, orange juice, tomato juice, pineapple juice, grapefruit juice and, of course, there's always Plain ice water.

The reason I prefer these beverages to the ones you named is because you can have as many as you want and you need never worry about feeling dizzy or acting foolish.

Dear Ann Landers: My husband and I received an engraved card announcing the marriage of a son of a close friend who lives in a nearby city.

The card arrived the day AFTER the wedding. We feel badly that we didn't get the card in time to attend. Don't you think if they had really wanted us to come they would have mailed the card earlier?

We had planned to buy a wedding gift, but now we don't know if we should. Are we wrong to feel this way? How would you feel?—GOT THE WORD LATE

Dear Late: You did not receive an invitation, you received an announcement. Some people appreciate a wedding announcement but since you are asking me how I would feel I will tell you that an announcement strikes me as a naked pitch for a present. Send a gift only if you feel like it.

C 1965, Publishers Newspaper Syndicate

Bids Due For Park Addition

Construction of a new multi-purpose room for Loma Park should begin soon as bids are now being accepted for a 40-by-64-foot addition to the Community Building.

Upon recommendation of the Parks Commissions, preliminary plans designed to meet the demands of an increasing park program, were submitted to the City Council in April of this year. At that time, \$20,500 was allocated for the project.

City Administrator Stanley Greene retained architect Earl Mason of Redondo Beach to prepare the final plans and specifications which were approved in August by the city engineer's office.

Bids will be accepted at Mason's office, 713 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach, until 10:45 a.m. Friday, Nov. 5, and will be opened at 11 a.m. the same morning.

Must Not Fail

Job Corps Program Has Potential for Success

By ALPHONZO BELL, Congressman, 28th District

How to prepare inadequately educated young people for a job market in which demand for unskilled workers is fast declining is one of our most serious domestic problems. Much progress has been made toward improving educational standards and increasing opportunities for learning throughout the nation, but mismanagement and bureaucratic tangle are impeding efforts to bring barely literate youths up to a level of education that will enable them to find work and maintain a decent standard of living.

The Job Corps has the task of conducting a nationwide program for rehabilitating, educating and training youths whose home and neighborhood environments do not encourage development of a desire to prepare for a fruitful life. It has potential for success.

In excess of 11,600 boys and 1,300 girls, between the ages of 16 and 21, are currently enrolled in the still growing, nine-month-old program. The great majority of enrollees are at the 50 "conservation centers," learning basic reading and writing

skills, receiving job and citizenship training and performing outdoor work in nearby areas. The more advanced have gone directly to urban centers, of which there are five for women and eight for men, where more advanced job skills are taught. After attaining eighth-grade level in a conservation camp, the youth may go on to an urban center, or directly to a job, the military, or back to school.

JOB CORPS administration has not been faultless. Screening assigning processes have been inadequate and at times careless. Youths who should never have passed initial screening have arrived at camps. Some have expected advanced training for which they could not possibly qualify. Fourteen have gone on to college. They are to be commended, but doubt is raised about a policy that would admit advanced youths to a program for high school dropouts. Other criticisms, focusing on the hurried method by which center personnel are selected, are equally valid.

Errors could have been avoided with proper coordi-

nation between agencies and with realistic appraisal of the time it takes to establish a large and effective program. But this should not blind us to the possibilities of the Job Corps.

THROUGH contracting and subcontracting for center management, the proven techniques of industry in-job training and of the academic world in dealing with educational problems are being utilized in an unprecedented combination. Because they have been allowed to proceed at their own pace, many enrollees have already found abilities they did not know they had.

The Job Corps can acclimate young men and women to the world that exists outside of poverty, broken homes and defeat. It can show them how to be productive citizens. At best, it can provide thorough rehabilitation of young people who might otherwise spend their lives on relief or in prison. Because wise spending and action now can lessen the ultimate cost to society, the Job Corps, as a better part of the war on poverty, must not be allowed to fail.

Your Second Front Page

Press-Herald

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Executive Named to Committee

I. A. Caraco, vice president of the Bechtel Corp. in Redondo Beach, has been named to the Advisory Committee of Engineers' Week 1966, V. A. Peterson, Advisory Committee chairman, announced today.

Engineers' Week scheduled for Feb. 21-27, is a nationwide observance of the importance of engineering. More than 65,000 Southland engineers, members of 61 engineering societies, will participate in the observance, under the theme "Engineering—Creative Resource for Progress."

Dr. Simon Ramo, vice chairman of the board of TRW, Inc., and president of The Bunker-Ramo Corp., is general chairman. Fenwick H. McCollum, vice president of engineering, Del Mar Engineering Laboratories, is chairman of the steering committee.

Property Tax Bills Arrive, Payment Due

Property taxes are now due and payable, property owners were advised this week by Harold Ostly, Los Angeles County tax collector.

The tax official mailed 1,393,012 tax bills in the mail Monday, but an additional 38,774 bills are waiting to be picked up because his office has no mailing address for the owners, Ostly reported.

Another 371,218 tax bill are being picked up at Ostly's office by large corporations, utility companies, and other owners of many parcels of real estate. This saves the county postage charges for these bills, he reported.

First installment on the bills will become delinquent at 5 p.m. on Dec. 10. Second installments become due Feb. 1, 1966, and will be delinquent at 5 p.m., April 10, 1966.

MARKS 45TH YEAR

Forty-five years of service with Security First National Bank is being celebrated by Raymond C. Kuhn, 3220 Merrill Drive. He is a supervisor in the head office central transit division, operations department.



H. TED OLSON To Plan Dinner

Ted Olson Will Chair Scout Fete

Torrance Councilman H. Ted Olson, vice chairman of the South Bay District of the Boy Scouts of America, has been named general chairman for the annual South Bay District Recognition Dinner, it was announced today.

More than 1,000 persons, including many prominent citizens of the area, are expected to attend the annual event. The dinner will be held at the South High gymnasium Wednesday, Nov. 10.

A potluck dinner will be served, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

HIGHLIGHT of the evening will be the installation of new officers for the South Bay District of the Boy Scouts of America. Superior Court Judge William B. Keene will announce the new officers, while John K. Sloan, a Los Angeles attorney and first vice president of the Los Angeles Area Council of Boy Scouts, will install the new officers.

Joseph A. Walker, X-15 pilot and chief test pilot for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's lunar landing research vehicle, will be the guest speaker. Music will be furnished by the South Bay Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

EIGHT AREA Boy Scouts will receive the coveted "Order of Merit Awards" at the conclusion of the program, Olson said. The awards are presented for exceptional service to scouting.

Insurance Contract Rescinded

Action awarding a fire insurance contract to the Palos Verdes Insurance Agency and Hartford Insurance Co. was rescinded by the Board of Education Monday. Trustees called for new quotations on its fire insurance program.

The board awarded the contract to the Palos Verdes Agency two weeks ago on the basis of a lower quotation. Lund Co. of Torrance also had submitted a bid from the Hartford Insurance Co.

The Hartford Insurance Co. subsequently withdrew its quotation from the Palos Verdes Agency, saying it had agreed to quote exclusively through the Lund Co.

THE MOTION to rescind the board's action and call for new quotations was made by trustee Bert M. Lynn. During debate on the motion, a spokesman for the Palos Verdes agency asked to be allowed to substitute another company at the same price.

Since the Hartford Insurance Co. jerked the rug out from under us, so to speak, we feel it only fair that the board be allowed to substitute this company," board members were told.

S. E. Waldrip, assistant superintendent of schools for business, said the county counsel had reviewed the case and indicated the board had three choices in the matter.

TRUSTEES COULD place the insurance with the Lund Co., delay and negotiate further, or award the contract to any agency of their choice, Waldrip said. A binder from the Hartford Insurance Co. is good for 60 days, he added.

The board voted to call for new quotations. "This is a lot cleaner way," Lynn remarked.

COLLEGE NIGHT

Gardena High School, 1301 W. 182nd St., will host a college night program Monday, Nov. 15, from 7:30 to 9:30. The meeting is open to all high school students and their parents. Representatives of public and private colleges and universities will present information about college requirements.